

Regarding 'Calcium channel blocker-induced chylous ascites in peritoneal dialysis'

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To the Editor: We appreciate the report by Tsao and Chen¹ about chylous ascites associated with the use of calcium channel blockers in a patient on peritoneal dialysis. The authors list other causes of chyloperitoneum, including neoplasia, nephrotic syndrome, and congenital abnormalities of the lymphatic system. We would like to bring to the readers' attention another disease associated with chylous ascites that may be encountered in patients on peritoneal dialysis: systemic lupus erythematosus.² It has been suggested that mesenteric inflammation from the lupus can lead to lymphatic obstruction and consequent chyloperitoneum and chylothorax.

Those managing patients on peritoneal dialysis should be aware of this association between lupus and chyloperitoneum.

1. Tsao Y-T, Chen W-L. Calcium channel blocker-induced chylous ascites in peritoneal dialysis. *Kidney Int* 2009; **75**: 868.
2. Lee C-K, Han J, Lee K *et al*. Concurrent occurrence of chylothorax, chylous ascites and protein losing enteropathy in systemic lupus erythematosus. *J Rheum* 2002; **29**: 1330-1333.

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Response to: "Regarding 'Calcium channel blocker-induced chylous ascites in peritoneal dialysis'"

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Drs Graice and Bargman have indicated that mesenteric inflammation from systemic lupus erythematosus can lead to lymphatic obstruction, reflecting the diverse causes of chylous ascites in peritoneal dialysis.¹ We recently reported on a 34-year-old woman with acute small-bowel infarction as the presenting feature of lupus-associated protein-losing enteropathy preceding a full-blown lupus flare.² Our patient had massive ascites; however, it was not chylous in nature. The mechanistic basis remains unclear³ and the protean manifestations may render clinical scenarios potentially misleading, creating a great challenge in management of patients with chyloperitoneum.

1. Graice R, Bargman JM. Regarding 'Calcium channel blocker-induced chylous ascites in peritoneal dialysis'. *Kidney Int* 2010; **77**: 165.
2. Chen WL, Tsao YT. Protein-losing enteropathy with mesenteric venous thrombosis: a forme fruste of systemic lupus erythematosus. *Lupus* 2009; in press.
3. Sultan SM, Ioannou Y, Isenberg DA. A review of gastrointestinal manifestations of systemic lupus erythematosus. *Rheumatology (Oxford)* 1999; **38**: 917-932.

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